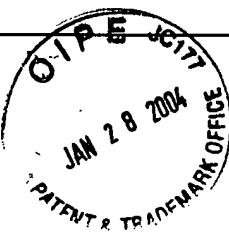


Image AF/1637

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January 28, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Application No. 09/233,218
Filed: January 20, 1999
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated
with the Tetrapyrrole Pathway
Applicants: Claire A. CAJACOB *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16517.231

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO):

1. a Request for Oral Hearing Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences;
2. an Appointment of Associate Attorneys; and
3. a return postcard.

Please stamp the attached postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

Applicants request that the following fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2387 referencing docket number 16517.231:

\$ 290.00 request for oral hearing fee

In the event that extensions of time beyond those petitioned for herewith are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees, other than the above fee (\$290), are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387 referencing matter number 16517.231. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Marsh (Reg. Attorney No. 41,408)
Holly Logue Prutz (Reg. Attorney No. 47,755)

Enclosures